

The Old Paths

Volume 19, Issue 7

April 15, 2012

“Three Sins That Condemned Daniel”

Jarrod Jacobs

Daniel, the very one who was over them (Dan. 6:2-3).

Daniel, the prophet of God, was an outstanding character of the Old Testament. Most all of his life was spent in captivity: first under Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians, then under Darius the Mede, and under “Cyrus king of Persia” (Dan. 1, 6, 10). In spite of his being away from family and loved ones, he knew about God and worshipped Him faithfully. He did this from his teen years under Nebuchadnezzar, to the end of his life. His faithfulness so impressed God that God said Daniel was one of only three men who “*should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness*” while the rest of the land would be laid waste by God because of the people’s sin (Ezek. 14:12-20).

Yet, on one occasion, Daniel was condemned. Daniel was condemned to die, not by God, but by men, for the sole reason that he prayed to God after a decree had been made that no one could pray to anyone or any “thing” except the king. Daniel’s condemnation came because three sins were committed. Not his sins, but because certain others committed sin, Daniel was sentenced to die.

If we are not careful, we may also be guilty of these same sins. Let us study Daniel chapter 6, and see what three sins condemned Daniel to death.

Envy

Daniel had risen to a position of leadership while in captivity, not unlike Joseph during his time of captivity in Egypt. During the reign of Darius, Daniel was placed over several governors. These men didn’t like this, and in their envy, began devising a way to trap Daniel (Dan. 6:1-4). They could not stand that Daniel was over them and that he was favored by the king. Therefore, they began looking for something against him. In Daniel they found “*no error or fault.*” Therefore, they decided, “*We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God*” (Dan. 6:5). The only thing they could find “wrong” with him was his loyalty to God, and that he would put God above all else. (Wouldn’t this be a good problem for all of us to have?)

Lying

Based on their decision to trap Daniel by forcing him to choose between the laws of the land and the laws of God; they met with the king, saying: “*All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions*” (Dan. 6:7). This was a lie, for “all” were not “agreed”! Daniel would not support this legislation. They had conspired and lied against

Pride

Why then did this edict pass (Dan. 6:9)? It is because of the King’s pride! He could have refused the legislation, but he, like Nebuchadnezzar, was proud and wanted to be worshipped. Why else would one sign such a decree? In the end, though, he was humbled when he realized what his signature and seal had done to Daniel (Dan. 6:14-15, 18-19). The sins of these men condemned Daniel to the lion’s den. Why? Because when Daniel “*knew that the document was signed, he ... gave thanks before His God, as he had done previously*” (Dan. 6:10). He did not alter his prayers, nor hide in the corner from anyone.

Conclusion

The sad thing is that these sins are still with us today, and it is possible for us to be guilty of envy, lying, and pride if we are not careful. (In fact, these same sins nailed Christ to the cross!) We know the outcome of Daniel and of his accusers (Dan. 6:23-24). What about us? Are we the kind of people that have such conviction and dedication that, no matter what, we will be faithful to God? Remember, Daniel didn’t know he would be rescued when he made his stand! In like manner, we don’t know the end of things when we stand for the Lord. However, we know Who holds the future!! Remember that God commands us to be “*faithful unto death*” (Rev. 2:10). Let us put ourselves in Daniel’s shoes, and let us face our “fiery furnace” bravely (I Pet. 1:7, 4:12-16)! Brother, if you were put on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Once You Admit It, Will You Stop It?

Jarrold Jacobs

There was a cartoon several years ago in the Saturday Review of Literature in which little George Washington was standing with an axe in his hand. Before him lying on the ground is the famous cherry tree. He has already made his admission that he did it -- after all, he "cannot tell a lie." Also pictured is his father, who is exasperated, and says, "All right, so you admit it! You always admit it! The question is, when are you going to stop doing it?"

The story above is an amusing one, but it makes a good point. Once we come to the point that we admit that we have committed a certain sin or sins, will we stop it? This question deserves our attention. Perhaps you know (as I do) of one who readily admits that he is a sinner, and in need of salvation. At the same time, this person will not take that next step, which is repent of those sins and live right by obeying the Gospel (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). How many people do we know who will admit (while they are smoking a cigarette, drinking their alcohol, etc.) that they are in error, and "it is a nasty habit," but refuse to do anything about their sin? Many have said that one of the most difficult aspects of any problem is admitting that you have one. It seems like some people have "conquered" the fear of admitting their problem, but will do nothing beyond that. How can continuing in a sin one recognizes and admits is sin, be beneficial to anyone?

In reading the Bible, we learn that it is a book that not only de-

mands that men admit they are sinners in God's sight, but also demands that men do something about that sin! In Old Testament days, Solomon said, *"Whoever conceals his transgression will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy"* (Prov. 28:13). Notice please that God expected the man to confess AND forsake the sin in order to have mercy. It is not enough to merely confess and go on living in a particular sin! In New Testament days, Christ said, *"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish"* (Lk. 13:3). What does "repentance" mean? It means turning away from the way you used to live, and living in accordance with Christ's will! An example of repentance is found in the book of Matthew. Christ spoke a parable concerning two sons who were told by their father to go work in the vineyard. One boy said he would go, but did not. The other refused, but later *"repented and went"* (Matt. 21:29). This boy not only had to admit that he was in the wrong for disobeying his father, but also had to do what was right! Read Luke 15:11-21, and see another son who was in the same position. In the word "repentance," we see one not only recognizing he is guilty of sin, but also takes steps to stop it!

When Paul wrote the second

epistle to the Corinthians, he told them that he knew what he wrote in the first letter would make them sorry, but he rejoiced because that godly sorrow led them to repentance (II Cor. 7:9-10). Notice that when you sorrow over an act that you know is wrong, you still have not done what is right!

When one learns that he has sinned in the sight of God, he must not only admit that he is in sin, not only be sorry about the sin, but also turn from that sin!! Only then can one think about being in a right relationship with God.

Dear friend, examine your life. Are there things you are doing which are in contradiction to the will of God? In what areas of your life are you guilty of sin? In those cases, not only must you face up to the fact that you are guilty, but then also take the necessary steps to get out of that sin. If you're outside of Christ, then waste no time in repenting of your sins, confessing Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:36-38, 8:36-38; Mk. 16:16). If you've done those things already, but have been caught up in various sins, then turn from your error in repentance, confess those things and pray for God's forgiveness (Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9). It is not enough to admit you have a problem, you must cease in that and do what is right!

Your Bible questions answered ...
www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.

Location: 101 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

Meeting Times:

Sunday Bible Study	_____	10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship	_____	10:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship	_____	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	_____	7:00 p.m.

"The Ancient Landmark" Television Show: airs on You Tube
(www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)

Preacher/Editor: Jarrold Jacobs

Phone: (270) 589-4167